

# SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

105th Congress  
1st Session

Vote No. 89

May 23, 1997, 10:58 am  
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## BUDGET RESOLUTION/Vouchers to Escape Dangerous Schools

**SUBJECT:** Senate Concurrent Budget Resolution for fiscal years 1998-2002 . . . S.Con. Res. 27. Coverdell substitute amendment No. 357 to the Wellstone amendment No. 313.

### ACTION: AMENDMENT AGREED TO, 51-49

**SYNOPSIS:** As reported, S. Con Res. 27, the Concurrent Budget Resolution for fiscal year 1998, will balance the Federal budget in fiscal year (FY) 2002 by slowing the overall rate of growth in spending over the next 5 years to below the rate of growth in revenue collections (the Congressional Budget Office recently revised upwards its 5-year revenue estimate by \$225 billion).

The Wellstone amendment would increase tax collections by \$16 billion over 5 years and would increase spending by the same amount with the intention of increasing spending on Head Start, Early Start, and child nutrition programs, and of starting a new Federal program for public school construction.

**The Coverdell substitute amendment** would adjust the functional totals in the resolution to reflect the assumption that the Labor Committee will use Federal educational funds under its jurisdiction to provide children who have been victims of violent crime the ability to transfer to another school of their choice, whether public, private, or sectarian.

NOTE: Following the vote, the Wellstone amendment, as amended, was adopted by voice vote.

**Those favoring** the amendment contended:

The Coverdell amendment embraces a simple and important point: low-income children should not be trapped in dangerous public schools any more than high-income children should be trapped. At present, middle-class and wealthy parents have the financial ability to send their kids to private schools; low-income parents do not have that ability. By law, their children must attend school, and they often must often, by law, attend schools at which they are at great risk of physical attack. Just 2 days ago we read that 4 teenagers

(See other side)

YEAS (51)		NAYS (49)			NOT VOTING (0)	
Republicans (51 or 93%)	Democrats (0 or 0%)	Republicans (4 or 7%)	Democrats (45 or 100%)		Republicans (0)	Democrats (0)
Abraham	Hutchinson	Chafee	Akaka	Johnson		
Allard	Hutchison	Collins	Baucus	Kennedy		
Ashcroft	Inhofe	Jeffords	Biden	Kerrey		
Bennett	Kempthorne	Specter	Bingaman	Kerry		
Bond	Kyl		Boxer	Kohl		
Brownback	Lott		Breaux	Landrieu		
Burns	Lugar		Bryan	Lautenberg		
Campbell	Mack		Bumpers	Leahy		
Coats	McCain		Byrd	Levin		
Cochran	McConnell		Cleland	Lieberman		
Coverdell	Murkowski		Conrad	Mikulski		
Craig	Nickles		Daschle	Moseley-Braun		
D'Amato	Roberts		Dodd	Moynihan		
DeWine	Roth		Dorgan	Murray		
Domenici	Santorum		Durbin	Reed		
Enzi	Sessions		Feingold	Reid		
Faircloth	Shelby		Feinstein	Robb		
Frist	Smith, Bob		Ford	Rockefeller		
Gorton	Smith, Gordon		Glenn	Sarbanes		
Gramm	Snowe		Graham	Torricelli		
Grams	Stevens		Harkin	Wellstone		
Grassley	Thomas		Hollings	Wyden		
Gregg	Thompson		Inouye			
Hagel	Thurmond					
Hatch	Warner					
Helms						

#### EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

1—Official Business  
2—Necessarily Absent  
3—Illness  
4—Other

#### SYMBOLS:

AY—Announced Yea  
AN—Announced Nay  
PY—Paired Yea  
PN—Paired Nay

were arrested and charged with gang raping a 14-year-old girl last month by luring her from a cafeteria at a public high school in Queens to an unused classroom to carry out the attack. Why should any child be forced to attend a school at which this type of assault occurs? The Coverdell amendment would help remedy this situation. It would allow local school systems to give vouchers to kids to let them attend the schools of their choice. It would give poor children a chance to seek out safe school environments, just as all other children in America may already do. We urge our colleagues to support this amendment.

**Those opposing** the amendment contended:

The Coverdell amendment would allow Federal funds to be used to support a sweeping, unconditional voucher plan. We should not make such a large change without more debate. We should instead reject this amendment and vote on the underlying amendment to increase spending on child welfare and to start a new Federal program for public school construction.